

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 13197 121859Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3064

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CALL FROM AGNELLI REGARDING LA STAMPA POSITION ON
EPOCA INTERVIEW

REF: ROME 13107, 13177

1. I HAVE RECEIVED A CALL FROM GIANNI AGNELLI WHO WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR MY EPOCA STATEMENT. HE FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE REMARKS BE MADE AT THIS TIME. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN EASY STAND TO TAKE PUBLICLY AND WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE. HE SINCERELY APOLOGIZED FOR THE LINE TAKEN BY LA STAMPA AND BEMOANED HIS LACK OF EDITORIAL CONTROL. HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE HOW UNFORTUNATE HE FELT THIS INCIDENT WAS AND WANTED TO REASSURE ME THAT LA STAMPA WOULD NEVER MOVE AWAY FROM ITS PRO-AMERICAN LINE. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK WAYS TO ASSURE THAT THIS KIND OF UNFORTUNATE COVERAGE WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN IN THE FUTURE AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK FOR WAYS IN WHICH LA STAMPA WOULD BE ABLE TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION WHICH WAS SO BADLY MUDDIED BY THEIR COVERAGE OF MY EOPCA STATEMENT. OBVIOUSLY THE LA STAMPA COVERAGE WAS A GREAT SURPRISE TO US AND PROBABLY THE MOST DAMAGING NEGATIVE REACTION. HAVING AGNELLI'S REASSURANCE ON THESE MATTERS WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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